High-level committee on telecom-related issues

223. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government are considering for setting up of a three-member high-level Committee to address telecom-related issues in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed Committee would also look into the aspect of revenue sharing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Telephone facilities in villages

224. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to link all the villages by telephones;

(b) if so, by when the target would be achieved; and

(c) what are the limitations for achieving this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has a policy to cover all the villages of the country with a village public telephone by the end of year 2002. Due to delay in security clearance in J & K, Assam and North Eastern States and slow provisioning by private Basic Service Operators, the achievement of target is likely to spill over to 2003-2004 even though nearly 85% of villages have already been covered.